

## REMARKS

Claims 5-7 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 8-10, and 13-15 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The office action states that the Information Disclosure Statement filed 3/21/2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP 609 because information regarding the author, title, date and pertinent pages have been excluded. The reference in question is a communication from a foreign patent office regarding a counterpart application. Consequently, information regarding the author, title, date and pertinent pages is irrelevant. Notwithstanding, inasmuch as the reference is not statutory prior art, this issue is moot.

## CLAIM OBJECTIONS UNDER 37 CFR 1.75(c)

Claims 13-15 stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 13-15 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

## REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which

Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 13-15 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, allegedly results in an improper definition of a process. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 13-15 are cancelled. Accordingly, these rejections are moot.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Imanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,116,714). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, claims 1-3 and 8-10 are cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

#### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Imanaka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,116,714) in view of Igarashi (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2005/0078134). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 is cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Claim 5 calls for a liquid drop ejecting device including a liquid drop ejecting head device and the controlling device. The liquid drop ejecting head device includes: a liquid drop ejecting head ejecting a liquid drop; a detachable storage section storing at least one of record datum indicating whether or not the liquid drop is ejected from the liquid drop ejecting head device; and a storage controlling section reading out at least one of the record datum from the detachable storage section and/or writing at least one

of the record datum to the detachable storage section. The controlling device transmits the record datum and a driving waveform driving the liquid drop ejecting head to the liquid drop ejecting head device.

According to the claimed configuration, it is possible to eject the liquid drop according to a variety of the record data only by exchanging the detachable storage section. It is not necessary to transmit the record datum from the controlling device to the liquid drop ejecting head device before the liquid drop is ejected by preparing a plurality of storage sections having different record data in advance so as to exchange the storage section according to the manufacturing step. Furthermore, it is possible to employ a method in which a plurality of liquid drop ejecting head devices having a storage section, in which a variety of different record data are stored, are prepared in advance so as to exchange the liquid drop ejecting head device according to the manufacturing step. By employing such a method, it is not necessary to transmit the record datum from the controlling device to the liquid drop ejecting head device in the controlling device before the liquid drop is ejected. Thus, it is possible to improve manufacturing efficiency.

With regard to claim 5, the Office Action admits that Imanaka does not disclose the detachable storage section and the storage controlling section. However, the Office Actions assets that Igarashi discloses in paragraphs [0257] and [0280] and FIG. 2 a printer configured so as to have an image processing section for carrying out image processing, a display media attachment/detachment section to and from which recording media storing image data captured by a digital camera or the like are inserted and taken

out. Also, Igarashi discloses that the nozzles or the head may be provided integrally with the cartridge 48 (see FIG. 2) and be detachable with respect to the carriage 41.

Applicant respectfully submits that Igarashi fails to teach a printer including the features of claim 5. In the claimed liquid drop ejecting device, the liquid drop ejecting head device includes:

- (1) a liquid drop ejecting head ejecting a liquid drop;
- (2) a detachable storage section storing at least one of record datum indicating whether or not the liquid drop is ejected from the liquid drop ejecting head device;
- (3) a storage controlling section reading out at least one of the record datum from the detachable storage section and/or writing at least one of the record datum to the detachable storage section.

In contrast, in the printer of Igarashi, the display media attachment/detachment section is used for storing image data. Thus, the display media attachment/detachment section is not used for storing the record datum indicating whether or not the liquid drop is ejected from the liquid drop ejecting head device.

Furthermore, in the printer of Igarashi, the carriage 41 removably holds the cartridge 48 accommodating ink as described in paragraph [0122]. The cartridge 48 in a state of having no ink is detached from the carriage 41, and the cartridge 48 in a state of being filled with ink is attached to the carriage 41. Thus, Igarashi does not disclose the detachable storage section of the claimed invention.

In addition, Igarashi does not disclose the storage controlling section. The storage controlling section reads a part of the record datum or an entire record datum from the detachable storage section and/or writes a part of the record datum or an

entire record datum to a detachable storage section. Thus, in the liquid drop ejecting device of the claimed invention, by combining the detachable storage section and the storage controlling section, it is possible to obtain the above described effects.

As stated above, Igarashi does not disclose the feature of claim 5 of the present invention. In addition, none of the references disclose, teach, or suggest the present invention as set forth in claim 5.

Accordingly, the present invention according to claim 5 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Imanaka and Igarashi. Similarly, claims 6 and 7, which depend from claim 5 is not rendered obvious by the combination of Imanaka and Igarashi.

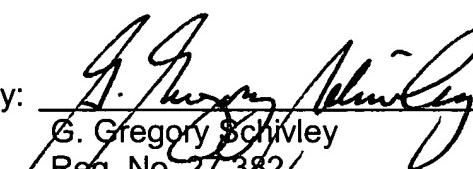
#### CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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